

fore the vote is taken. I do not propose to make any argument in favor of the amendment which I have proposed, but simply to express my high appreciation of this scheme for the introduction of a general system of common school instruction in this State. In most of its features I very heartily indorse, and shall most cheerfully vote for it. And I do not wish to be understood, in the amendment I have offered, as indicating any disposition to regard the office of State superintendent as a sinecure, for I do regard it as an important one. But it is only because I think a man eligible to the position, and adapted in every respect to fill it, can be obtained for the amount I have indicated, that I have been prompted to offer this amendment. So far as the general features of the report are concerned, I most heartily indorse them, and shall most cheerfully vote for them.

Mr. PURNELL. I do not intend to enter into any extended argument upon this subject. I rise simply to state the reasons why I shall favor the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd.) I should be very reluctant to depreciate this office by affixing to it a salary which would be wholly inadequate to its importance. For I hold the doctrine that in order to secure proper and competent officers for any position, proper compensation should be awarded to them for their services. In view, however, of all the circumstances that surround this office, I think that the amount proposed in the amendment of the gentleman from Caroline will sufficiently and fairly compensate an officer who may be clothed with the duties which this officer would be necessarily required to perform.

It is proposed by the committee to pay him a salary of three thousand dollars exclusive of office and travelling expenses. These office and travelling expenses I suppose must necessarily be defrayed by the State. This officer would be required to report to the legislature the amount of expenses he had incurred in the performance of his duties, which would be paid to him over and above the compensation allowed to him as a salary. So far as his travelling expenses are concerned, I will only speak in reference to my particular section of the State, and my particular section of the eastern shore of this State. There his travelling expenses would necessarily be very light, for an officer occupying this position, coming among our people would be conveyed from one point in the county to another, wherever his duties might require him to attend, free of expense. He would be entertained by the citizens of the county without any expectation of being paid for his board or entertainment in any way. Thus I say his expenses in that view would be very light, and so would be his travelling expenses. There is no means of communication there, either by railway or steamboat, through the

district of country through which he would necessarily pass, and he would have to be conveyed in carriages, &c. And I am very well satisfied that our people would, without expense, convey this officer from one part of the county to another, wherever his public duties might require him to go. Consequently his expenses there would be merely nominal.

I think, furthermore, that there are many gentlemen who are qualified—without any depreciation at all of their capacity and requirements, either practical or literary—who would willingly discharge the duties of this office for a compensation of two thousand dollars. My experience in the legislature last winter, while this subject was pending before the two houses, was that there were gentlemen here of known capacity and experience in this particular department, scientific men, professors, if you please, who were willing to accept the office that was then proposed to be established for a salary of fifteen hundred dollars. I thought then, and I think now, that that salary was too small, though they were under the impression that it would compensate them. They seemed to take the same view that I now take, that their travelling expenses in certain parts of the State would be merely nominal, and that what they received would be for the actual labor they would be required to perform.

Now, after this system is got into full operation, after the report is made by this superintendent, and the whole system is gotten under way, his duties and labors will be greatly diminished by the assistant superintendents which are provided for in the next section of this report, who would furnish him all the information from various parts of the State, which he would otherwise be required to obtain for himself, and thus would lighten the duties devolved upon him. So that all the labor which he would have to perform might be performed in his office. The information received from the assistant superintendents in the various counties would enable him to make out the reports provided for in this article.

I think, then, that two thousand dollars would amply compensate this officer for the labor and duties which he would be required to perform, and I think there are a great many men—without in any manner depreciating their capacity or the importance of the position—who would be willing to take this office, and gladly discharge the duties to the fullest extent and in accordance with the provisions of the law, for the sum of two thousand dollars a year. And with that view, I shall support the amendment of the gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd,) thinking that salary ample and liberal.

Mr. RIDGELY. I do not propose to discuss this question any further. But I rise for the purpose of offering an amendment to this section. As I said, when I was up before, I